

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-05 ADP-00 OC-06 CCO-00 MED-03 ST-01 M-03

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FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9052

INFO AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

UNCLAS DACCA 1063

E O 11652 N/A

TAGS: SWEL, BGEN, CGEN, BG

SUBJECT: PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES FOR NON- USG EMPLOYED AMCITS

REF: STATE 25530

1. BEGIN SUMMARY: AMCITS AND OTHERS NOT AUTHORIZED USE EMBASSY'S LIMITED MEDICAL SUPPLIES ARE DEEPLY PERTURBED AT LACK CERTAIN DRUGS, ESPECIALLY DUCK EMBRYO ANTI- RABIES VACCINE AND GAMMA GLOBULIN, LOCALLY. IN EFFORT BE HELPFUL, EMBASSY SOLICITS DEPARTMENT'S ASSISTANCE IN CONTACTING ELI LILLY COMPANY ABOUT ESTABLISHING SUPPLY SUCH DRUGS, THROUGH ITS AGENT, FOR COMMERCIAL DISTRIBUTION ALL CUSTOMERS WITH PRESCRIPTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. BACKGROUND: SEVERAL AMERICAN FAMILIES, NON- USG EMPLOYEES, WERE RECENTLY DISMAYED WHEN UNABLE FIND LOCALLY SUPPLIES OF DUCK EMBRYO ANTI- RABIES VACCINE. THEY AND OTHER FAMILIES (FOREIGN DIPLOMATIC AND PROMINENT BENGALIEE) TURNED IN THEIR ANXIETY, UPON EXPOSURE TO RABID ANIMALS, TO THIS EMBASSY FOR PHARMACEUTICAL ASSISTANCE. OTHER AMERICANS HAVE COMPLAINED OF LACK OF GAMMA GLOBULIN. OUR ABILITY TO HELP LIMITED BY NEED TO MAINTAIN SUPPLIES FOR OFFICIAL USG COMMUNITY. EMBASSY, THEREFORE, GRATEFUL FOR DEPARTMENT'S PROMPT, EFFECTIVE SUPPORT IN MEETING EMERGENCY PLEA (REFTEL).

3. GIVEN CONCERN VOICED BY LOCAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY AND EMBASSY'S
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DESIRE BE RESPONSIVE TO EXTENT IT PROPERLY CAN, WE HAVE CONTACTED REPRESENTATIVES VARIOUS US FIRMS REPRESENTED BANGLADESH TO EXPLORE WHAT MIGHT BE DONE TO RELIEVE ACUTE SHORTAGE OR ABSOLUTE LACK OF CERTAIN PHARMACEUTICAL SUPPLIES. ALL THOSE CONTACTED, AND EVEN REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND OTHER DIPLOMATIC ESTABLISHMENTS WHO HEARD OF OUR UNDERTAKING, HAVE EXPRESSED WILLINGNESS SUPPORT, INCLUDING FINANCIALLY, A SATISFACTORY SOLUTION THIS PROBLEM. FYI: THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 400 NON-USG-CONNECTED AMCITS IN BANGLADESH, MANY OF WHOM EMPLOYED ON USAID-FINANCED CONTRACTS. END FYI.

4. POSSIBLE SOLUTION WHICH MOST LENDS ITSELF, IN OUR VIEW, TO RAPID, COMPLICATION-FREE IMPLEMENTATION IS FOLLOWING: WE HAVE SPOKEN WITH ESKANDER ALI, MANAGING DIRECTOR, ROXANA PHARMACEUTICALS, 35 TOPKHANA ROAD, DACCA, WHOSE FIRM REPRESENTS ELI LILLY, US MANUFACTURER OF DUCK EMBRYO ANTI-RABIES VACCINE. ALI INDICATED HIS FIRM WOULD BE WILLING FINANCE IMPORTATION AND DISTRIBUTE SUCH VACCINE AT MODEST OR NO MARKUP, PROVIDED HE WOULD BE REIMBURSED FOR COST OF "DEAD" STOCK, WHOSE VALIDITY EXPIRES BEFORE USE. HE ALSO INTERESTED IN IMPORTING GAMMA GLOBULIN FOR COMMERCIAL SALES SINCE HE BELIEVES INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS CURRENTLY WIDESPREAD.

5. ALI SUGGESTED THAT DR. W. R. BAILEY, VICE PRESIDENT, ELI LILLY INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION, INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA BE CONTACTED SO THAT TWO AFOREMENTIONED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS MIGHT BE SHIPPED BANGLADESH EXPEDITIOUSLY. ALI POINTED OUT HE HAS REFRIGERATION SPACE FOR DRUG STORAGE AS REQUIRED. ALI DOES NOT ANTICIPATE ANY DIFFICULTY OBTAINING APPROVAL FROM BDG DRUG CONTROLLER FOR IMPORTATION THESE DRUGS SINCE ELI LILLY PRODUCTS HAVE GOOD LOCAL REPUTATION. DRUGS WOULD BE DISPENSED ONLY UPON PRESCRIPTION.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPT PLEASE CONTACT ELI LILLY TO ASCERTAIN WHETHER LATTER WILLING SUPPLY THESE PHARMACEUTICALS TO ITS LOCAL AGENT, AND IF SO ON WHAT TERMS. WE MAY THEN BE ABLE APPROACH LOCAL AMERICAN COMMUNITY WITH REALISTIC PROPOSAL. NO OBJECTION PASSING THIS ENTIRE MESSAGE TO ELI LILLY. NEWBERRY

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